

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. The Examiner finally rejected claims 1-7 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Korg, which was obtained from an Internet archive. Applicants submit herewith a request for continued examination pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 with this Amendment as the requisite submission. With entry of this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 4-7. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Conventionally, a digital mixer executes processes such as equalizing, volume adjustment and effect addition on audio signals input from a plurality of input channels to achieve a desired mix. If the user wishes to hear the audio signals of a given input channel to a mixer, he or she can use a SOLO function. However, the SOLO function only provides audio signals that have already been subjected to equalizing, volume adjustment or effect addition for the desired mix. There is no way for the user to hear “raw” or unprocessed audio signals of the given mixer input channel.

The present invention allows for the user to hear raw audio signals of a given mixer input channel. Specifically, if a listening mode is designated, the user can hear the raw audio signals. If the listening mode is not designated, the audio signals of the given channel are heard as processed with the audio signals of the other input channels for the desired mix.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a recording/reproducing mixer comprising a processing device. The processing device “executes at least one process of equalizing, volume adjustment and effect addition on a plurality of audio signals from a plurality of input channels before mixing the plurality of audio signals.” Claim 1 further recites that a controller outputs audio signals based on the designated listening mode. It “directly outputs audio signals read from the selected track . . . while bypassing said processing device when the listening mode is designated.” When the listening mode is not designated, it outputs audio signals from the selected track “via said processing device.”

It is believed that Korg fails to disclose the above recitations. Korg discloses that a device with a mixer section. (See paragraph 5.) The mixer section allows the user to set volume, equalization and pan for each channel to create the desired mix. The settings can be set as a “scene” to be called up during playback. During playback, the user can monitor the audio signals of the various input channels as processed to determine if he or she likes the desired mix. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Korg that the user can designate either to monitor the audio signals of one of these mixer input channels directly, i.e., in an unprocessed state, or to monitor the audio signals of the mixer input channel as processed with the other input channels for the desired mix.

In the Office Action at page 4, the Examiner notes that Korg provides the user with the choice to playback a track with or without an effect. This choice however is not the choice provided by the claimed invention. It allows a user to choose whether to hear the audio signals of a mixer input channel either directly or as processed with the other input channels for the desired mix. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Korg.

For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 3 which depend from claim 1 are not anticipated by Korg. Applicants note that claim 2 has been re-labeled to overcome the Examiner’s objection.

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to recite “processing at least one process of equalizing, volume adjustment and effect addition on a plurality of audio signals from a plurality of input channels before mixing the plurality of audio signals” and “directly outputting the audio signals read from the selected track of said recording/reproducing device while bypassing said processing when the listening mode is designated, and outputting the audio signals read from the selected track of said recording/reproducing device via said processing when the listening mode is not designated.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 5 are not anticipated by Korg for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim 6 has been amended to recite “a processing device that executes at least one process of equalizing, volume adjustment and effect addition on a plurality of audio signals from a plurality of

input channels before mixing the plurality of audio signals” and “a monitor output controller that directly outputs the audio signals read from the selected track of said recording device without going through said processing device, so as to listen to the audio signals recorded on the selected track themselves when the listening mode is designated, and outputs the audio signals read from the selected track of said recording device by going through said processing device when the listening mode is not designated.” Claim 7 has been similarly amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 7 are not anticipated by Korg for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032027100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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